

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiners Singh and Williams to Applicants' representative during the March 15, 2005 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stefik et al. (Stefik), U. S. Patent No. 6,233,684. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Stefik fails to disclose a document forgery protection printing method comprising the step of determining a forgery protection level to be applied to the document based on a policy that determines the forgery protection level for the document, the policy using a plurality of factors including at least contents related to the documents, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 14.

As agreed during the personal interview, Stefik fails to disclose a policy that uses a plurality of factors including at least contents related to the documents because only the document owner, and not the printing system, specifies the watermark information (col. 12, lines 16-35).

Accordingly, Stefik fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 14 as well as the additional features recited in claims 2 and 15. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

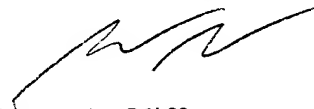
Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stefik in view of the Livingston, U. S. Patent No. 6,621,590, claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stefik in view of Livingston and in view of Cyr et al. (Cyr), U. S. Patent No. 6,138,913 and claims 6-13 and 19-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stefik in view of Cyr. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Livingston and Cyr fail to overcome the deficiencies of Stefik as applied to claims 1 and 14. As such, the combination of Stefik, Livingston and Cyr fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1 and 14 as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: April 5, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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